

THE PEW CAMPAIGN FOR
RESPONSIBLE MINING

RECLAIM OUR FUTURE

Editorials Supporting 2262, The Hardrock Mining and Reclamation Act of 2007

October 2007-May 2007

"To frustrated reformers (not to mention the industry itself), this is revolutionary stuff. Mr. Rahall believes he has enough votes to win House approval. A bigger obstacle is Harry Reid, the Senate majority leader, whose home state of Nevada profits handsomely from mining. History's tide is turning against him, and if Mr. Reid is smart, he will stand aside and let reform have its day."

-- *New York Times*, "At Last, an Overhaul for a Bad Law,"
October 26, 2007

http://www.nytimes.com/2007/10/26/opinion/26fri3.html?_r=1&ref=opinion&oref=slogin

"Western Colorado's two House members, Mark Udall and John Salazar, support the bill. Others should, too. It's long past time this 19th century relic was revamped to reflect the new realities of the 21st century."

-- [*Grand Junction, CO*] *The Daily Sentinel*, "Archaic mining law needs 21st-century update,"
October 18, 2007

http://www.gjsentinel.com/opin/content/news/opinion/stories/2007/10/18/101807_4A_mine_edit.html

"Congress should hold steady and approve Rahall's bill without major changes. With the number of claims rapidly rising across the West, it's time to bring mining into the 21st century."

-- [*Eugene, OR*] *The Register-Guard*, "Don't weaken mining bill: It's time for Congress to update 1872 mining law," October 17, 2007

<http://www.registerguard.com/csp/cms/sites/dt.cms.support.viewStory.cls?mid=6150&p=print>

"But a modern-day boom in hard-rock mining claims - particularly for uranium - should provide inspiration for passage of the Hardrock Mining and Reclamation Act of 2007, which was introduced in Congress this spring and is facing committee review. "

-- *Fort Collins Coloradoan*, "Hard-rock mining boom compels reform: Gross royalties, bonding and public oversight should be implemented," October 12, 2007

<http://www.coloradoan.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071012/OPINION01/7101203>
12

"Reform of the 1872 mining act is long overdue. Meaningful reform will better protect public resources and bring the hard rock mining industry into the 21st century."

-- [Olympia, WA] *The Olympian*, "Mining law needs reform," October 11, 2007
<http://www.theolympian.com/opinion/story/240582.html>

"Rahall's bill, co-sponsored by New Mexico's Rep. Tom Udall, is the model Dome"
-- *Santa Fe New Mexican*, "Mine reform's time might be upon us," October 7, 2007
http://www.freewmexican.com/Story/Mine_reform_s_time_might_be_upon_us

"Meanwhile, Congress should approve legislation reforming the nation's 135-year-old General Mining Act, which has left a legacy of polluted mine sites across the West. Sponsored by Rep. Nick Rahall, D-W.Va., the bill would bring the law into the 21st century, imposing an 8 percent royalty on the value of minerals extracted, closing environmentally sensitive areas such as roadless areas and wildernesses to mining, installing environmental requirements and creating a cleanup fund."

-- [Eugene, OR] *The Register-Guard*, "A listing for Formosa: Mine cleanup eligible for Superfund dollars," September 19, 2007

"And, most importantly, we hope Congress pushes a current bill through — H.R. 2262, the Hardrock Mining and reclamation Act of 2007."

-- [Frisco, CO] *Summit Daily News*, "Mining's tainted legacyMining's tainted legacy Mining's tainted legacyMining's tainted legacy," September 13, 2007
<http://www.summitdaily.com/article/20070912/OPINION/70912013>

"Among the many reasons to overhaul the nation's 135-year-old mining law, one of the most compelling is the threat to national parks throughout the West. A new report by the nonprofit Environmental Working Group details a major increase in hard-rock mining claims near some of this nation's most treasured national parks, including the Grand Canyon, Yellowstone and Yosemite. That's bad news, given the failure of Congress to update federal mining laws that are utterly lacking in environmental safeguards. The laws have left a legacy of polluted mining sites in Oregon and throughout the West."

-- [Eugene, OR] *The Register-Guard*, "Mining threatens parks," September 5, 2007
<http://www.registerguard.com/news/2007/09/05/ed.edit.mining.0905.p1.php?section=opinion>

"Congress is decades overdue in making companies pay royalties and meet stricter environmental rules. Taxpayers deserve some return from mining on their property, and better safeguards for it."

-- *Orlando Sentinel*, "Royalties in order: Mining companies should be helping pay for their environmental damage.," September 4, 2007

"Rep. Nick Rahall (D.-W.Va.) has introduced legislation that would curb this trend. The Hard-rock Mining and Reclamation Act calls for companies that extract valuable minerals to pay royalties, just as the coal, oil and gas industries must do. It would also forbid mining in sensitive wilderness areas and establish a cleanup fund for abandoned sites. All of these steps are crucial to ensure that the nation's parks remain a cherished legacy, and to reinforce the idea that they belong to the public."

-- *The Providence Journal*, "National park spruce-up," September 1, 2007

http://www.projo.com/opinion/editorials/content/ED_parks3_09-03-07_UA6TEN1.13902e3.html

"The time could come when a cartoonish landscape emerges: Inside park boundaries, the deer and the antelope play in pristine settings — while just inches away, strip mining is carried out with total abandon."

-- *Santa Fe New Mexican*, "Mine claims run amok; time to reform 1872 law,"
August 30, 2007

<http://www.santafenewmexican.com/news/67615.html>

"Almost every other creation of nature can be expected to suffer unless Congress calls a halt to this fire sale of the nation's natural assets."

-- *The Baltimore Sun*, "Mining at any cost," August 25, 2007

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/opinion/editorial/bal-ed.notebook25aug25,0,226831.story>

"Based on that 135-year-old statute, mining has enjoyed a free hand. It's high time for Congress to rein it in."

-- *The Salt Lake Tribune*, "Industry darling: Mining law of 1872 should be reformed,"
August 23, 2007

http://www.sltrib.com/opinion/ci_6691955

"Which leaves one enduring obstacle: Harry Reid, the Senate majority leader, whose home state of Nevada depends far more on mining than any other state. Mr. Reid now seems willing to listen, as he should. One can live in the 19th century for only so long."

-- *The New York Times*, "Unchanged (for the Worse) Since 1872," August 20, 2007

http://www.nytimes.com/2007/08/20/opinion/20mon2.html?_r=1&oref=slogin

"Reid and his fellow lawmakers, both Democrats and Republicans, should take a pickax to the nation's 19th century mining law and create a new one fitting for the 21st century."

-- [*Eugene, OR*] *The Register-Guard*, "Ax federal mining law," July 25, 2007

<http://www.registerguard.com/news/2007/07/25/ed.edit.mining.phn.0727.p1.php?section=opinion>

"We're looking forward to Congress erasing the General Mining Act of 1872 from the law books and moving it to the history books."

-- *The Denver Post*, "Closing in on mining-law fix," May 29, 2007

http://www.denverpost.com/editorials/ci_6008189

"The mining industry played an important role in the settlement and development of the West. It remains an important economic factor in many areas. However, it is long past time for this industry to take responsibility for the damage it has caused and to stop receiving special treatment from the federal government at the expense of the taxpaying public."

-- *Canon City [CO] Daily Record*, "Mining law needs updating," May 22, 2007

<http://www.canoncitydailyrecord.com/Opinion-story.asp?ID=7040>

"The [1872] law lacks even rudimentary environmental safeguards and provides no mechanism for the public to halt a mining operation on federal land, even if it's believed to be causing irreparable harm. As a result, 135 years of mining have saddled the nation with polluted sites that would cost an estimated \$50 billion to clean. In the few instances when mine sites are actually cleaned up, taxpayers usually end up footing the bill."

-- [Eugene, OR] *The Register-Guard*, "Reform mining law," May 18, 2007

<http://www.registerguard.com/news/2007/05/18/ed.edit.mining.0518.p2.php?section=opinion>

"Reid can tamp down a Rahall companion bill in the Senate for the time being, but you have to wonder how long he can argue in favor of an antiquated law that hasn't been changed in 135 years."

-- *Reno Gazette-Journal*, "New bill might change face of Nevada mining," May 11, 2007

<http://news.rgj.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070511/OPED01/705110466/1098/OPED>